

Empire State ARCHITECT



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UNIVERSITY PARK HOUSING PROJECT
THE BUILDING INDUSTRY LOOKS AHEAD
NATIONAL ACTIVITIES
CENTENNARY OF A STRUCTURAL REVOLUTION
WHAT YOUR STATE ASSOCIATION HAS DONE FOR YOU

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE
OF ARCHITECTS
APR 3 9 13 AM '48
THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

MARCH - - - APRIL

1948

VOLUME VIII

NUMBER II



*Newest Video=Radio Station...in the
Modern Structural Material...*

ARCHITECTURAL CONCRETE



The new Mutual-Don Lee Studio, occupying the entire block bounded by Vine, Fountain and Homewood Avenues in the heart of Hollywood's Radio Center, combines the latest in television, FM and AM radio in what is said to be America's most modern broadcasting station. Of all-concrete construction, the new studio features a contemporary design of horizontal motif.

The first floor contains eight large studios. Four will accommodate audiences of 350 people each. Four will be non-audience studios. In addition, there will be five small studios for newscasting and FM. There will also be about 70 offices and recreation rooms.

This new structure was designed by Claude Beelman, architect, and Herman Spackler, associate. Construction by Wm. Simpson Construction Company.

THE new \$2,500,000 home of the Mutual-Don Lee Broadcasting System, now nearing completion in Hollywood, is a three-story-and-basement structure approximately 280 feet square with a floor area of about three acres. It is a building of beauty, strength and permanence because it is built with the modern, versatile structural material—architectural concrete.

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UNIVERSITY PARK HOUSING PROJECT

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Builders of the
University Park Housing Project



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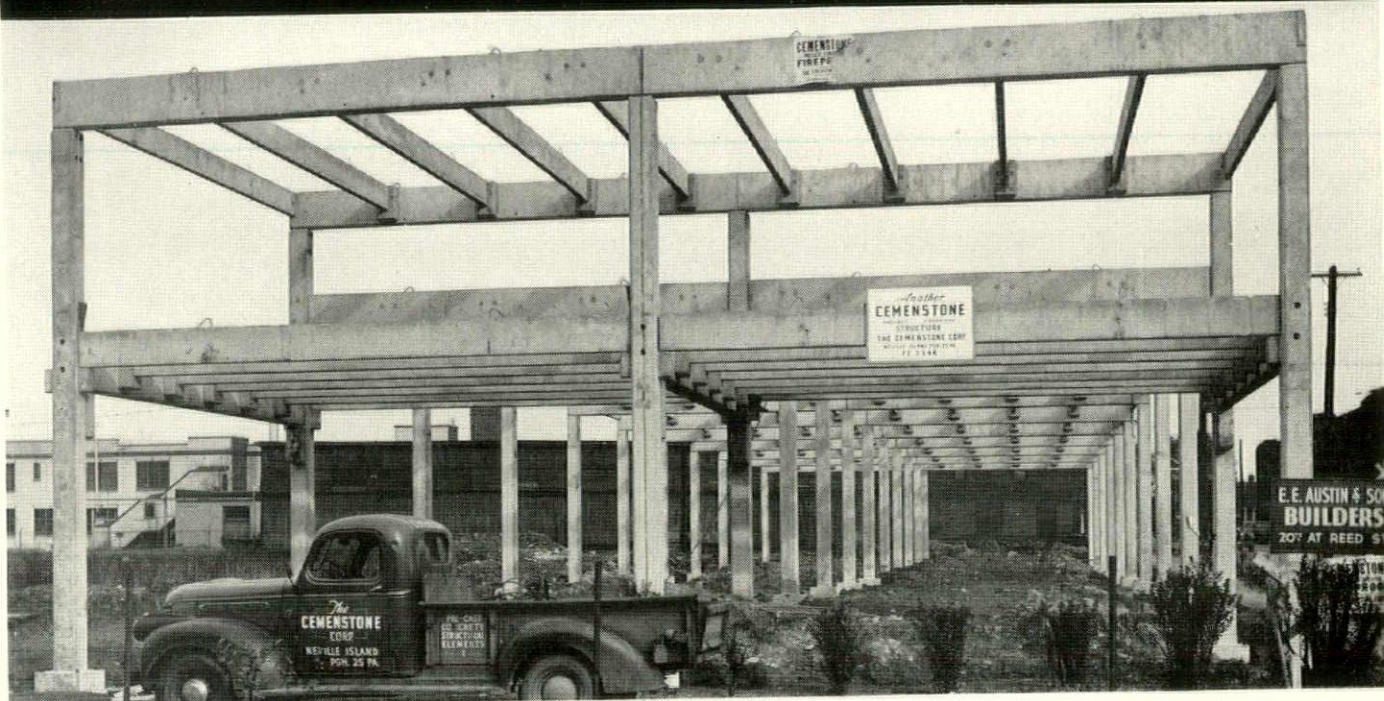
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Empire State Architect

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WHAT YOUR STATE ASSOCIATION HAS DONE AND IS DOING FOR YOU

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The Legislative Committee held its organization meeting in January, 1947, and arranged for its activities during the Legislative session, which was already in progress. At this meeting its chairman was again authorized to study all bills affecting the profession, and to take such action as he deemed necessary in our behalf. It was decided that the chairman was to make periodic reports to our affiliates, and that he was to go to Albany whenever the occasion demanded.

The Legislative session ended on March 18th, 1947. The final days of the session were as hectic as usual, with the gavel falling at about 2:30 A. M. Many bills were introduced by both parties for the purpose of creating campaign issues for the elections to be held this fall. There were 2537 Senate bills, and 2766 Assembly bills. They covered every conceivable subject. The ones that engaged our attention were those in connection with Housing, Multiple Dwellings, Education, Labor, Public Buildings, Tax exemptions, etc. The chairman of your Legislative Committee examined more than 300 bills to determine whether they were favorable or detrimental to the building industry, in which the architect has so large a stake.

Whenever action was required, each affiliate co-operated with your chairman to the fullest extent, so that the final results have been eminently satisfactory. To sum up, all bills which we opposed failed of passage, and most of those we favored were passed.

The amendment to the Education Law, waiving all qualifications requirements for architects' license except as to age, character and citizenship in certain cases, which was passed by both houses on the last day of the session, was vetoed by Governor Dewey. The Governor's action is undoubtedly due

(Continued on Page 20)

ANNUAL CONVENTION 1948

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

Locale: October 28, 29, and 30, 1948

Place: Albany

Time: Country Club centrally located in Capital District.

Program:

N. Y. S. A. A. Annual Meeting
Interesting Seminar Discussions
Annual Banquet
Professional Exhibit
Student Exhibit
Commercial Exhibit

Hotel Accommodations: (arrangement in progress)

Albany, Schenectady, or Troy.

Transportation: Bus service from downtown Albany, and from Troy and Schenectady, if warranted, to meetings.

Please stand by for further notice regarding preparation of your exhibit material, hotel accommodations, and other details as our plans crystallize.

PLAN TO ATTEND NEXT OCTOBER

THE BUILDING INDUSTRY LOOKS AHEAD

Briefed from an address by David S. Miller, President of the Producers' Council, Inc., before the New York State Association of Architects, Oct. 22, 1947.

The primary objectives of the Producers' Council, from its very beginning, have been to aid in lowering the cost of construction and to broaden the market for quality building materials. These were sound objectives 26 years ago; they are sound objectives today and they form a sound basis for the future.

We all realize that higher costs for raw materials, higher wage rates, and increased transportation costs, together with other factors, have exerted tremendous pressure on the cost of finished buildings. Nevertheless we must do everything within our power to get costs down. There is no more certain way to assure a healthy future for manufacturers of building products and for the industry as a whole.

The rise in building costs has made an impression on the public which has not been matched by any other cost situation, unless perhaps it be food. Buying a home ordinarily is by far the largest single expenditure which the family makes in its entire lifetime. Percentagewise the increase is not so far out of line as the dollars and cents figures make it appear to be.

Another reason is that the public buys other things, such as food and clothing every few days or weeks, so the increase in cost between transactions is not alarming. But in the case of housing the public compares today's costs with those of ten or twenty years ago when the family last purchased a home. Naturally the contrast is startling.

The public finally seems to have become reconciled to the fact that the cost of housing, like everything else, is on a higher level, so building has been resumed. But everyone concerned would be better off if building costs can be progressively decreased.

* * * * *

The Council's 1948 Program will consist of five principal parts, Chapter Activities, Technical Program, Research, Statistics and Economics and **Public Relations**.

In our Technical Program we shall continue to cooperate with the American Institute of Architects, the Modular Service Association, the American Standards Association and others, in the further development of modular coordination. That project has made amazing progress in the last few years and interest is running high throughout the building industry.

We shall also continue closely to follow the industry engineered housing program and to supervise the time-saving studies which are under way at the University of Illinois. We shall also add our full weight in every appropriate way to the nation-wide effort to modernize building codes. In our opinion, these projects will do more to lower building costs than anything else that is being proposed today.

In the field of Research, there is good reason to believe that real accomplishment is ahead of us. The Building Research Advisory Board, formed under the roof of the National Research Council, is about to become a reality.

The Board will seek a budget of \$100,000.00 a year for five years to conduct the following program.

1. To list, review, correlate and disseminate the result of completed research and current research activities.
2. To coordinate research effort and actively sponsor elimination of needless or duplicate research.
3. To foster research in undeveloped areas.
4. To further the application of scientific methods to the improvement of construction practices.

The above is a type of activity this industry long has needed. Much good is certain to come of it.

With regard to Statistics and Economics we will work with other groups in an effort to improve the statistics compiled and issued by the Federal Government in the field of construction. The Chamber of Commerce of the United States is to be complimented for having formed a committee to prepare a statistical program to be recommended to the government by industry.

We need more facts, more accurate data and a flow of statistical information which is free from bias and not slanted to serve the particular purpose of any individual or group.

We now come to our Public Relations Problem.

Except for spotty local shortages and tightness in the supply of a few building products, material shortages are a thing of the past. Insofar as production and distribution are concerned, the building industry is ready to meet practically any demand that may materialize.

But we do not face clear sailing by any means. There appears to have been a concerted and all too successful attempt to convince the public that the building industry is selfish, indifferent and incompetent. The public has been told that we are failing in our job of providing new housing and other construction and that we don't want to become an efficient industry—that we don't want to lower costs.

We have been subjected to attacks from several directions and we must counteract them in a convincing manner or else face the possibility of a rising and insistent demand for intervention of a type none of us would like.

Because of the course of events, the building industry has been constantly on the defensive since the very end of the war. Until recently it was true that the volume of new building was well below the need. But things have changed, and I am convinced that the time has come for manufacturers of building products and for the building industry as a whole to claim credit for an outstanding job in behalf of the public.

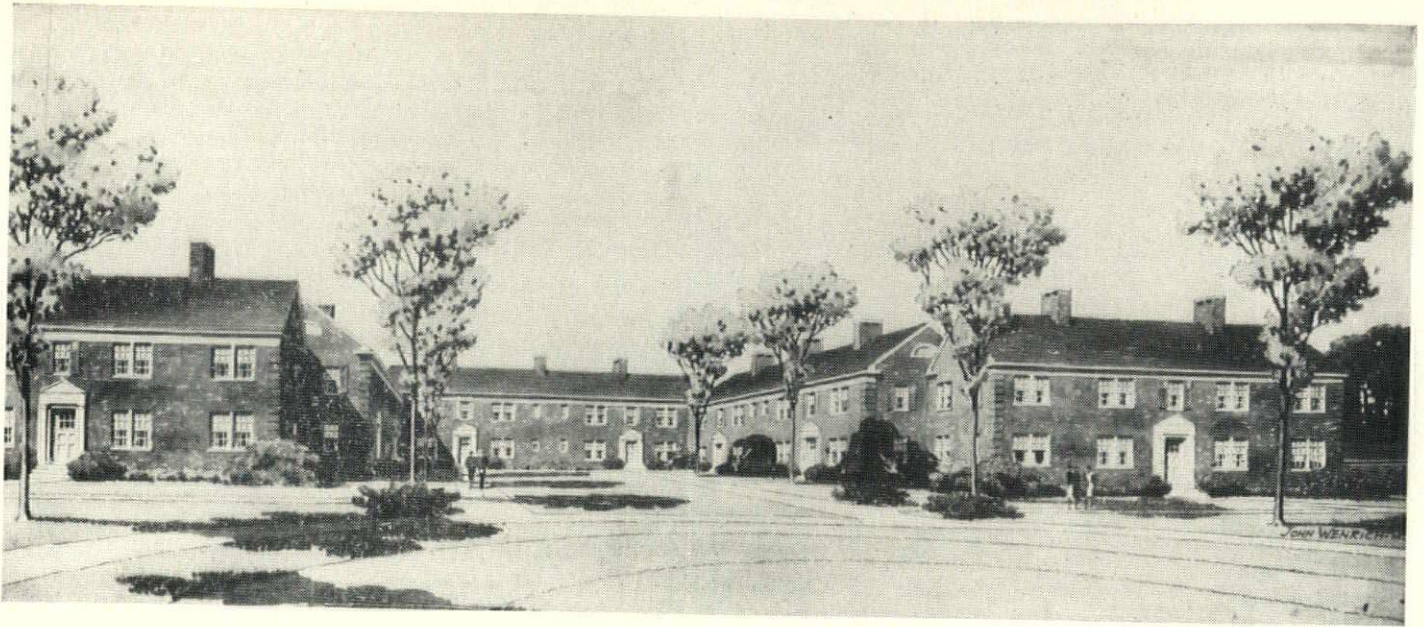
Not only are we building at a faster rate, but costs seem to be stabilizing in spite of the increased cost of coal and steel. It is true that we face another round of freight increases and there may be wage increases in other industries which will further boost the cost of our raw materials and component parts. Nevertheless there are healthy forces working in the opposite direction to reduce the cost of building.

For one thing, labor is becoming more productive. Its work output has not yet returned to pre-war standards; but there has been a definite improvement in almost every trade. This means more building done per dollar paid out in wages. There is good reason to believe that this desirable upward trend will continue.

The time required to complete a building has been decreasing. The day when it took 7 to 9 months to complete the average home is behind us. Some builders are already back to a 3-month schedule in residential building.

Material shortages have all but disappeared on a national basis. The freight car shortage may slow up deliveries of building materials this fall, but there should be an ample supply of materials for all types of building as soon as the transportation problem is eased. The quality of our buildings has improved. Good progress has been made in the modernization of restrictive building codes in many communities. The idea of sound building code revision has gained momentum and this will permit further savings in the cost of building. All in all, the picture is bright.

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CARPENTER AND BARROWS, ARCHITECTS

UNIVERSITY PARK HOUSING PROJECT

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

The University of Rochester has for some years needed suitable housing for its faculty members who desire apartment quarters instead of the normal single detached dwelling that predominates in Rochester. There was also a need for housing postgraduate students and hospital and university staff members. After an investigation of housing by other eastern colleges, the University felt it was to their best interest to have an outside agency handle the construction and rental of such a housing project. The Community Savings Bank of Rochester sponsored the project, which is not F.H.A. insured, and through the Savings Banks Trust Co. of New York set up a corporation participated in by six other upstate savings banks and The Bowery Savings Bank of New York.

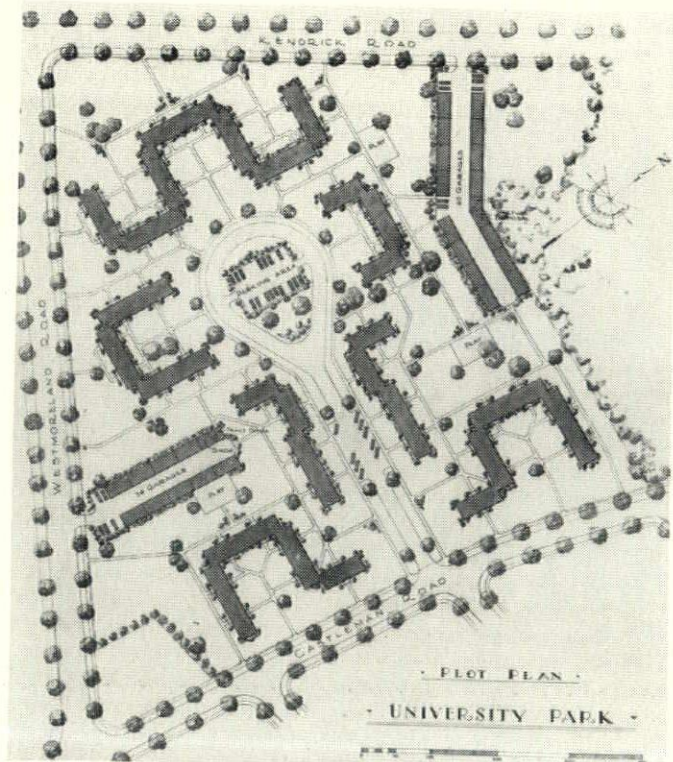
Our firm was employed to prepare preliminary plans and specifications and later the complete plans and specifications. The engineering firm of Madigan & Hyland, consultants of Savings Banks Trust Co. on housing, acted as consultants.

Six bids were received on the project, three of which were firm bids. A completion bond was required. The contract was awarded to A. Friederich & Sons Co. of Rochester who in turn sub-let the carpentry, plumbing, heating and electrical work all on firm bids. The metal door bucks and trim, the kitchen cupboard units, the garage overhead doors, and the Curtis silent window assemblies were delivered to the job as sub-contracts also on firm bids.

Our office has had two other garden type projects in Rochester which are 608 F.H.A. insured — Fernwood Park, 152 four room apartments and 70 garages, completed and occupied as a veterans non-profit project. The City furnished the site and some improvements. The local banks sponsored the project with a low interest rate on the mortgage. A four-room apartment rents for \$48 per month with an average of \$12.50 per month for heating, lighting, cooking gas and hot water costs. The cost per room of this project was \$1,765, garage unit cost \$750. This developed property reverts to the City upon full payment of the mortgage, time estimate 32 years. Ramona Park, 136 four and one-half room apartments, is a similar veterans project sponsored by the Rochester Home Builders Association with the same

arrangements with the City and three of the local banks as with Fernwood. Rental is \$50 per month for a four and one-half room unit with an average of \$12.50 per month for heating, cooking gas, lighting and hot water costs.

All three of these projects are brick veneer construction over frame with firewalls from basement to underside of roofing to divide the units into areas within Underwriters recommendations. There are no direct connections between first and second floor and no connection between first floor and basement. Each family has its own entrance. To reduce

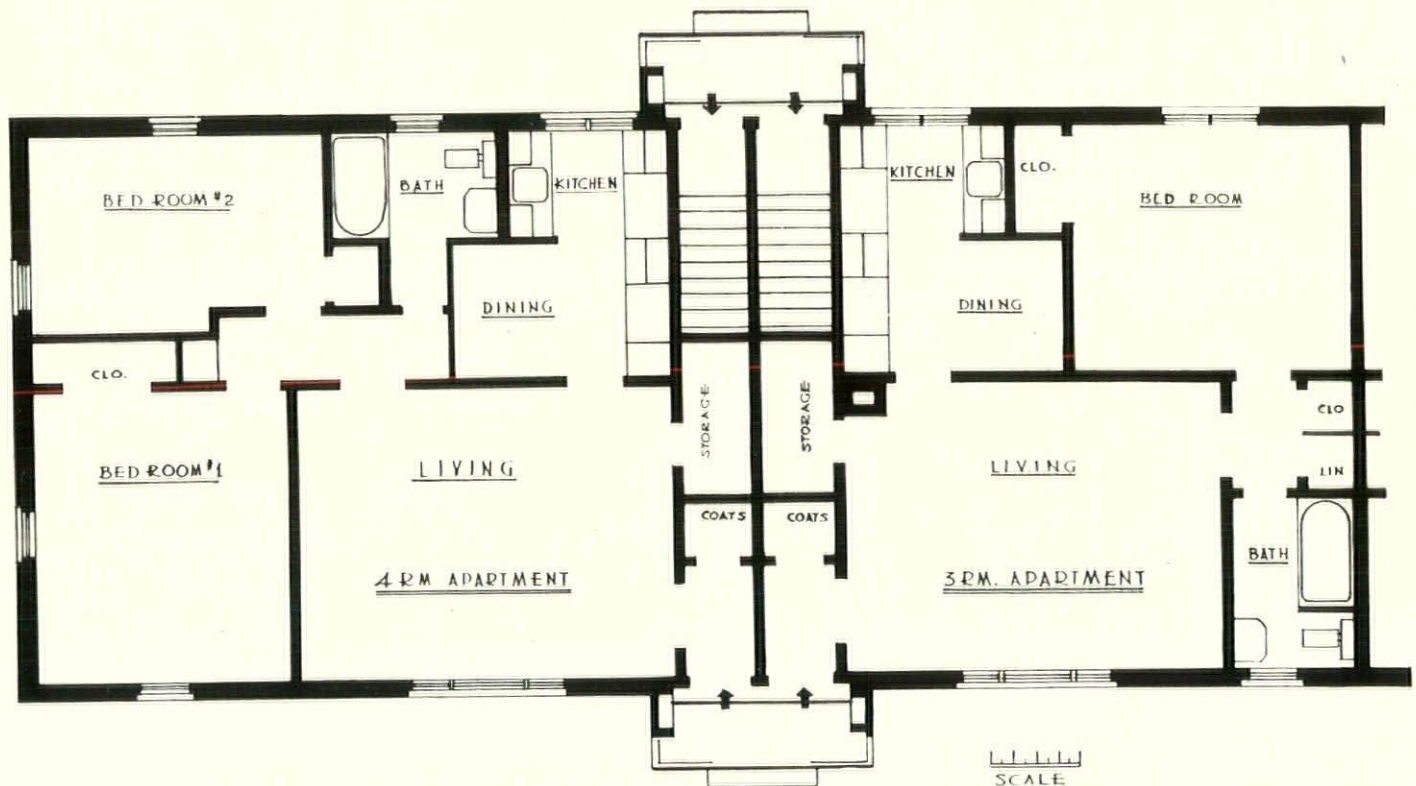


sound transmission, resilient spring clips for holding gypsum lath were used on the sidewalls between apartments and on the ceiling of the first floor. A zonalite plaster was also used on the ceiling for sound absorption and fire-proofing. The stud walls were covered on the exterior with $\frac{1}{2}$ " gypsum waterproofed sheathing and on the inside with $\frac{3}{8}$ " gypsum lath. Asbestos paper was used between sub-floor and finished floor. The stairs have been protected on the underside with perforated gypsum lath plastered and insulated from stud walls to prevent sound transmission.

By the use of colored plaster walls and ceiling in a sand float finish a substantial saving was made. Kitchens and bathroom have been finished smooth and painted with semi-gloss washable paint. The bathroom floor, base and sidewalls to a height of 4'-0" above tub have colored tile with the usual built-in fixtures. In the kitchen there is a linoleum floor, electric refrigerator, gas range and kitchen sink and cupboard units with factory finish.

by the second floor units and ducts counteracts the heat loss through the ceiling of the first floor apartment thereby equalizing the heating bills. This unit, being the gravity type, eliminates the fan with its noise and maintenance cost and is a very simple gas heating unit, similar to the thousands used in the Baltimore area. In University Park the gas is bought by the project through one meter at the industrial rate which gives a low B.T.U. cost and a similar arrangement is in effect for the electric service.

The rentals for University Park are \$90 for the four-room apartments (68 units), \$75 for the three-room apartments (76 units) and \$55 for the two and one-half room apartments (40 units) which include heat, hot water, cooking gas and electric. In the room arrangement, everything was done to eliminate unnecessary hall space, but still give good circulation. (See Cut.) All kitchens are standardized with a dining alcove. Ample closet storage capacity is given with each apartment. Room sizes were not cut to minimum, but adapted to the furnishing and liveability.



TYPICAL THREE AND FOUR ROOM APARTMENTS
University Park Housing Project

The question of heating was analyzed from the standpoint of central heating, group heating and individual heating units. After initial costs as well as operating costs were estimated, the individual thermostat controlled gas unit was installed. In the Fernwood project individual forced air gas units and domestic hot water heaters were installed on a concrete floor in each apartment off the center hall and transite flues were used as vents. This type of unit showed a big discrepancy in heating costs between first and second floor. The heat loss of the first floor apartments through the ceilings reduced the second floor heating load an appreciable amount. In the latter part of the project 2 inches of rock wool insulation was installed in the first floor ceiling. To offset this difference in University Park and Ramona Park, gravity hot air furnaces are used below the first floor apartments, although the heat ducts for the second floor apartments are covered with asbestos air cell. The heat losses below the first floor and in the first floor apartment walls

The project has four laundry centers, equipped with Bendix washers and dryers, a tract office and shop, a refuse center with a destructor, 96 single car garages and offstreet parking for 59 cars. One of the unusual features of University Park is the means of ventilating the attic space. Although 4 inches of rock wool insulates the space above the second floor, the problem of getting the heat out in the summer and the dampness in the winter has always been a difficult one to solve. The triangle or circular louvered ventilators on most garden type projects, as a rule in northern climates, become permanently closed to prevent the snow or rain from driving in. University Park is ventilated through a hooded vent similar to a chimney and incorporated with the chimney. These are louvered to prevent snow or rain from getting into the attic areas. These screened vents remove the air at the most efficient point.

(Continued on Page 24)

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

M. W. DEL GAUDIO

The following information has been received from Washington.

1. Next Convention:

a. The next convention of the American Institute of Architects will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, from June 22-25, 1948.

b. Information as to hotel reservations will be published in the March bulletin of the A.I.A. However, those members of the New York State Association who are interested in attending the convention are advised to write to the U. S. Travel Agency at 815 15th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., for information as to travel reservations.

c. Candidates for the following offices will be voted upon:

- 1 — President
- 2 — Vice-president
- 3 — Secretary
- 4 — Treasurer
- 5 — Regional Directors for Central States districts:

d. The New York State Association is entitled to approximately twenty (20) delegates, (depending on paid-up membership).

The number of delegates which may represent the N. Y. State Association will also be decided by the Secretary of the Institute and published in the Bulletin. At least one such delegate must be a corporate member of the Institute, but the others merely have to be members in good standing of the New York State Association.

Constituent organizations should take advantage of their next meeting to determine candidates to the delegation from the New York State Association and notify the Secretary of the State who these candidates are. Appointments as delegates will be made by the President from this list of candidates.

Cy Tucker.

2. Edward Kemper:

We have been advised that Edward Kemper, hard-working executive secretary has been granted a long-merited vacation, and that our friend, Nat Purvis, will carry out Ed's duties for that period.

3. Future Conventions:

a. The following have invited the A.I.A. for the 1949 conventions:

- 1 — Buffalo, New York, Buffalo Western New York Chapter.
- 2 — San Francisco, Calif., North California East Bay Chapter.
- 3 — Chicago, Illinois, Chicago Chapter.
- 4 — Syracuse, New York, Central New York Chapter.
- 5 — Houston, Texas, Houston Chapter.

The Executive Director said that in addition to these invitations, correspondence had disclosed that hotel accommodations can be secured — if commitments are made soon enough — in the following places:

Cleveland, Ohio; Montreal, Canada; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

b. The Board of Directors decided that Houston, Texas, would be the first choice, Montreal, Canada, the second choice, and, Chicago, Illinois, the third choice. All the above are tentative.

c. The Board also adopted a resolution that the 1950 convention be held in Washington, D. C.

4. Housing:

The Board has summarized its Emergency Housing Program as follows:

a. The stimulation of an intensive program of apprentice training which will produce, as rapidly as possible, an adequate supply of skilled on-site building labor.

b. The determination and public announcement of a definite program for the gradual elimination of rent control.

c. A conversion program to increase the number of rental units in existing structures.

d. The undertaking for the next two years, of a publicly financed housing program. This should be similar to the U.S.H.A. public housing just prior to the war except as follows:

1 — Construction-cost limitations should be increased to allow the use of pre-war physical standards at current construction costs.

2 — During the period of the housing emergency, the equivalent elimination of sub-standard housing should not be required.

3 — Control of planning and design as well as ownership and management should be vested in the Local Housing Authorities.

Building Codes:

The Board of Directors of the A.I.A. has recommended the creation of a Committee on Building Codes, with duties as follows:

a. To study, report and make recommendations regarding:

1 — Types of building codes — e.g. Specifications vs. performance.

By reference to published standards. (Legal means for acceptance of periodical revision without surrender of local law-making power, etc.)

2 — Desirability of nation-wide uniformity vs. regional special requirements.

3 — State vs. municipal codes and overlapping jurisdictions.

4 — Public safety and public interest vs. local politics and pressure groups within the building industry.

(Continued on Page 23)

ON THE COVER

The charcoal rendering of the department store for Bloomingdale Bros. at Fresh Meadows, L. I. is the work of E. P. Chrystie for the architects — Voorhees, Walker, Foley & Smith of New York City. The store, now under construction is a two story building with basement and is fully air-conditioned. The exterior materials are common brick and marble.

The design of the exterior is straight forward and pleasingly simple and the rendering clean cut and skillfully handled.

The store will serve the Fresh Meadows Housing Development (located between Flushing and Jamaica) which is a New York Life Insurance Company project.

Hereafter we will attempt to give you covers of previously unpublished buildings but will continue to present interesting progressive designs and outstanding delineations. We believe this is what you want — we need your cooperation — if you have criticisms or suggestions — write to the cover Editor — John C. Wenrich, Henrietta Rd., Henrietta, N. Y.

WARSAW'S RECONSTRUCTION PLAN

Report of a speech by Matthew Nowicki (Consultant from Poland for the U.N. Design Board) at Dinner and Meeting of the Architectural League of New York, Oct. 16, 1947.

In a fascinating introduction to bring out the point that Warsaw is situated at the crossroads of Europe, Mr. Nowicki traced the history of the city from the time of the first written records of its existence (900 years ago.) He also emphasized the historical fact that reconstruction as well as destruction is nothing new to this unfortunate city. Warsaw's dream now, which we all share, is of a final reconstruction into a world where wars shall be no more.

Although Warsaw was 85% destroyed in World War II, the old city plan nevertheless affects the new plan in many ways. Actually, replanning had started before the war with a design for a functional Warsaw executed by two Polish planners, Chmielewski and Syrkus which they presented at a Planners' Conference in London in 1938.

The present plan was nurtured by several planning groups during the occupational period. After the war it was completed by the Office of Reconstruction of the Capital in Warsaw which employed over 400 architects and technicians.

The master plan shows the influence of many well known sources, among them the principles so ably presented in Mr. Mumford's, "The Culture of Cities and others of his writings."

The principles of Warsaw's plan are, briefly, as follows:

1. The city as a whole is planned as a number of districts, each having a distinctive function in the general organism. No more than thirty minutes of travel time separates residential areas from places of work.

2. Various sections are divided by protective green belts of parks and public gardens. The belts are wide to permit free and unpredictable growth of each district.

3. The city street net is based on the idea of a super-block, at least one thousand feet wide, with few traffic crossings. Pedestrian movement is facilitated by ample provision of short-cuts within each super-block area. Parking facilities are provided by cul-de-sac approaches to separate buildings. Traffic crossings have ample surrounding space to allow for future 2-level arrangements.

4. Residential districts are designed to accommodate the education of children and the leisure of adults. A given distance from home to school or kindergarten limits the size of a settlement. Each residential quarter is in many ways independent from other parts of the city.

5. Since Warsaw is a Capital city, a large office quarter is provided for work related to the administration of the country. Linked with the super-block idea is that of free-standing structures as at the UN site here in Manhattan. The type of office structures and their relation to each other — so long as they provide the necessary office space within a certain economy — are subject to considerable flexibility.

6. Industrial sections of the city are planned to take advantage of land and water communication facilities with due allowance for prevailing direction of winds, etc.

The Master Plan incorporates provisions for social events, holidays and public gatherings in an area which links the civic center to the city's most spectacular features, the river.

The above principles do not distinguish this plan from others based on the same way of thinking. The distinctive Warsaw flavor derives from the site itself which gives the city plan its present shape. A second factor is the existing street net and a number of salvageable buildings. Third is the intention of reconstructing several historic monuments and conserving all others that can be saved.

In some areas the rubble problem was solved by elevating some of the super-block areas ten feet above the street level, providing the possibilities of two-level crossings for safer pedestrian and traffic movement.

Change of scale in different periods of Warsaw's history is linked with the change of speed in human movement. In the present plan, the scale is considered as varying between humans as pedestrians and humans as motorists. Super-block interiors are planned for short perspectives and relatively low structures. Silhouettes of high buildings are linked to open landscape views from city highways.

So much for the plan. Now for the question, "How will it be executed?"

The excellent and experienced city planners of this country (U.S.A.) realize how difficult it is to introduce even a minor change into a city plan — how complicated it is to improve a residential section or rehabilitate a blighted area. In the case of Warsaw the city is 85% destroyed! At one time the simplest solution seemed to be to choose a different site and move the entire city area. At present land values are almost non-existent. They will grow only as the city is reconstructed, in which event the increase in value might become very rapid and lead to speculation with financially disastrous results.

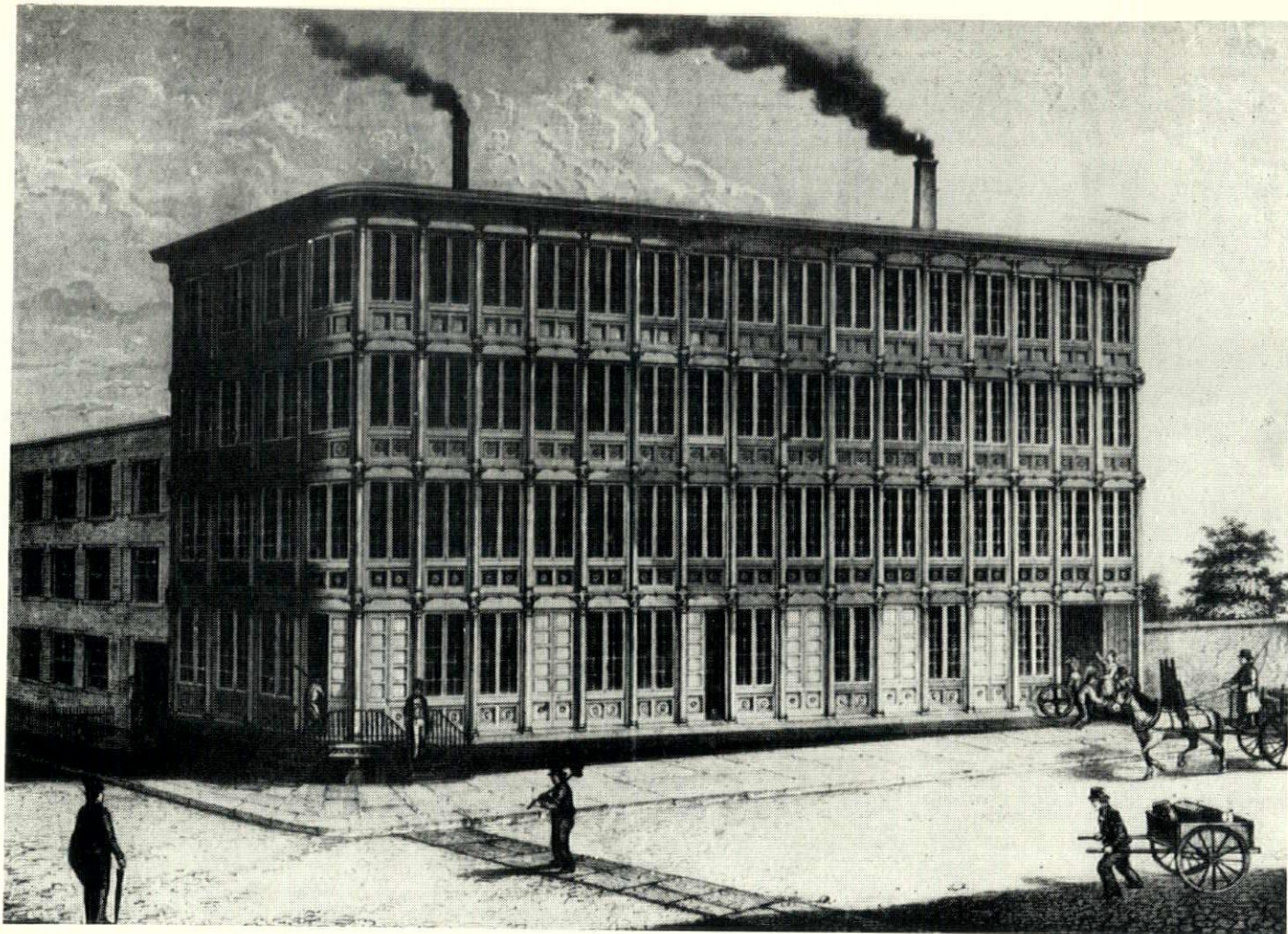
By a decision which was neither easy nor unanimous the City took over the land, giving each owner a free lease for 99 years which gives him the right to build — a right that he may sell if he wishes. However this decision may affect free enterprise, it does facilitate planning, since the city may interchange rights to build in the case of properties that lie in the way of proposed changes.

Many Polish planners see great dangers in state financing of development in the city area; yet private initiative would be too slow in forming an emergency program on a large scale. To many, the best way to approach the housing problem is through a large scale cooperative movement with individual home ownership as the ultimate goal.

The emergency program calls for tiny private apartments in scale with present economic possibilities. Indispensable to this program are a number of communal facilities from laundries to reading rooms. Paradoxically, these communal facilities are essential to complete privacy in each small home.

The planners of Warsaw have the vision of a goal which they intend to reach in many small steps, beginning with repair and clearing activities. They know that the details of the vision itself will change with changing conditions; but they seem to have well in mind that famous admonition of your own great architect, the late Charles Burnham:

"Make no small plans!"



THE FIRST CAST IRON HOUSE ERECTED

CENTENNARY of a STRUCTURAL REVOLUTION

BY DANIEL PAUL HIGGINS

The year 1948 rings with an historic challenge, for it marks the centennary of a structural revolution.

Construction of the first cast iron building, forerunner of the modern skyscraper, was started in New York City just one hundred years ago. At the same time, the process for producing Portland cement was devised in England. These two inventions changed the whole course of building history of the past century.

This may well be the year for a turn up a new road. Certainly, the setting is perfect for it. Talent and materials abound, yet man-made obstacles balk their use. Economic conditions are ripe, yet uncertainty hovers menacingly and paralyzes initiative. A devastated world desperately needs new building. Curiously enough, everything seems topsy-turvy. This is, indeed, the stuff that kindles the spark of imagination, that dares men to seek new horizons.

This year we can draw inspiration from a glance back to the year 1848. The pioneer whose gamble on a cast iron building previewed the majestic New York sky-line, was James Bogardus. He was an architect and builder. In those days, professional and business distinctions were perhaps not as sharp as today. The local New York Directory for that year described him as an "eccentric mill maker."

Bogardus needed a building for an iron works. What could have been more appropriate than that he should decide to build it of iron? He patented his process, braved the skepticism of cynics, and started construction of his cast iron building at 63 Center Street, between Pearl and Worth

Streets. If one were to view that same location today, perhaps the daring of Bogardus would seem even more startling. The building stood at what would now be the center of Foley Square, where the dignity of the Supreme Court Building, the Health and Hospital Department Building and the State Office Building provide sharp contrast with the four-story experimental structure of a century ago.

More cautious entrepreneurs might have awaited completion of the building before launching upon further experiments. Not Bogardus, however, for he started construction of another building of the same kind at the corner of Washington and Murray Streets. The latter building was completed before the Center Street structure.

Let it not be said that the pioneer, Bogardus, was ignored. The *New York Evening Post* of May 3, 1849, published a story that described the cast iron buildings as "the only ones of their kind in the world." There was no prediction however, about the future skyscraper.

As a matter of fact, the skyscraper did not leap, full bloom, directly from Bogardus' two buildings. The Museum of the City of New York which harbors an original lithograph of the Center Street building, approaches the subject cautiously by commenting that it "may be said to represent early steps in the evolution of skyscraper construction."

We can agree that the cast iron building of a hundred years ago showed the way for higher structures. This it did by reducing wall thickness, load and cost.

(Continued on Page 22)

WHAT SHOULD OUR CITIES BE LIKE?

At the October 16 Dinner-meeting of the Architectural league of New York President Wallace Harrison turned the direction over to Mr. Lewis Mumford, architect, lecturer, author and authority on City Planning.

Mr. Mumford in his capacity as toastmaster announced as the subject of the meeting, "The Rebuilding of Obsolete Metropolises of the World."

The first speaker, Mr. G. McKim Norton, Executive Director of the Regional Plan, served as a Lieutenant in the American Army of the Philippines. He explained that his specialty in the Regional Plan was not determining what should be done, but, rather, how to get it done.

He told of being transferred from a Combat Unit to the Planning Office in the Philippines and recited some of the tribulations of the planners. One trouble they encountered was in the attempt to separate residential and business sections. The Filipinos felt that a man should live over his business as a sort of watchman. They still do, in spite of the planners.

Cul-de-sac or dead-end streets presented another problem. It developed that such streets were laid out only in the red-light district—a sort of trademark. After discussing the proposed plans with eminent citizens, including an Archbishop, the hot potato was turned over to two Filipino Engineers who had been trained at M.I.T.

In Manila they were up against problems of an excessive amount of tax-exempt property as well as inflated values. The chief difficulty, which they finally admitted was insurmountable, was the practical impossibility of the planners understanding the thought habits of the people—and vice versa.

From his experience, Mr. Norton concluded that in New York City as in Manila, the prime necessity is to educate the public as to what the planners are trying to accomplish. The City Planning Commission, said Mr. Norton, ought to be the City's general staff on matters of development. He expressed the hope that we in New York will really begin thinking through our city planning problems and then move ahead.

Mr. H. J. Osborn of Great Britain, leader of the Garden Cities Movement said the planning movement must stem from humane standpoints. In England, no one wants to be planned or to plan someone else. But there is everywhere in that country a passionate desire for green and beautiful surroundings. They are a nation of individual home lovers, not apartment dwellers by choice.

The Garden Cities Plan in general is not to move people to the edge of cities far from their work, but, rather, to develop communities twenty to thirty miles from the Metropolitan Center in which there will be first class conditions for industries within a very short walking or cycling distance from pleasant residential areas.

The whole Garden Cities Movement is, as it must be in a democracy, a popular movement. The reasons why some things cannot be done and others must be calls for a lot of explaining. The relation of the planning authority to the public must be that of the architect to his client.

"If you have an aim," said Mr. Osborn, "I feel you will get the powers to carry out that aim. We failed in England for a long time because we did not have a clearly defined and widely understood aim."

Mr. Nowicki's address, which is reported separately, then followed. (See "Warsaw's Reconstruction Plan, page 10.")

At the conclusion of a discussion period which followed the addresses, Mr. Mumford said, "I am impressed by the fact that the speakers have different social backgrounds, different situations in life and yet gave pictures of communities with plans for the future and that they are ready to take the necessary social and economic measures for planning on the great scale needed." "If I were a Pole," he added, "I would be side by side with Mr. Nowicki. The difficulties are enormous and not to be hindered by municipal capitalism."

"In England they have arrived at a solution based on free enterprise—much freer than ours—with broad pow-

(Continued on Page 18)

A CHALLENGE TO UP STATE ARCHITECTS MULTIPLE DWELLING LAW

It is natural for one to suppose that what is good for one is good for another and that sanitary, health and building laws passed by the Legislature of this State should be binding with equal force on all of its citizens.

It is easy to understand the difficulties in enforcing these laws in rural communities, but why all cities, and particularly large cities, are not made to conform to the same requirements is beyond comprehension—that is, if politics are left out of the picture.

At the present moment I am thinking of the "Multiple Dwelling Law" which is the rankest kind of class legislation.

Why should New York City alone be subject to its provisions?

Do not Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester and other sizable cities, yes even Albany, have slums and backward neighborhoods?

Do the citizens of New York require more light and air, or better sanitary facilities than any other place in the State?

Is it not about time that living conditions were based rather on the needs of the citizens than on the political desires of those who happen to be in control when the laws are passed?

Are the architects of this State civic minded or are they fearful of losing prestige with their neighbors (and, incidentally, commissions) if they openly espoused the cause of equal treatment?

I am convinced that the "Multiple Dwelling Law," at least in its more important provisions, should be made to cover cities generally, and so place living conditions throughout the State on a more equal basis and bring the more backward areas up to the higher standards required by this law.

Are there not others who agree with this or do they prefer to "leave bad enough" alone?

Do I hear any answers?

Henry S. Lion
Associate Editor of Communications.

Editor's Note:

As architects we should consider laws that produce better living conditions, a benefit rather than a drawback. Buffalo made an attempt to have the multiple dwelling law adopted here minus a few of the sections applicable only to New York City's crowded areas. However it was not adopted at that time.

Let's hear some pros and cons re. this controversial subject.

A PUBLIC RELATIONS PROGRAM

By C. STORRS BARROWS

The building industry, next to farming—the largest in our country, is made up of material producers and handlers, contractors, mechanics and laborers, architects and engineers, construction equipment and appliance firms. Each and every one of these groups is vitally interested in the welfare of the business. All are dependent upon the group of investors or the one who foots the bill and gives the order to build. When he stops giving orders, the building business goes into a tailspin.

This past year has seen a great deal of very poor public relations on the part of the industry as a whole.

The material market is reputedly high-priced and still experiencing shortages of most necessary items such as nails.

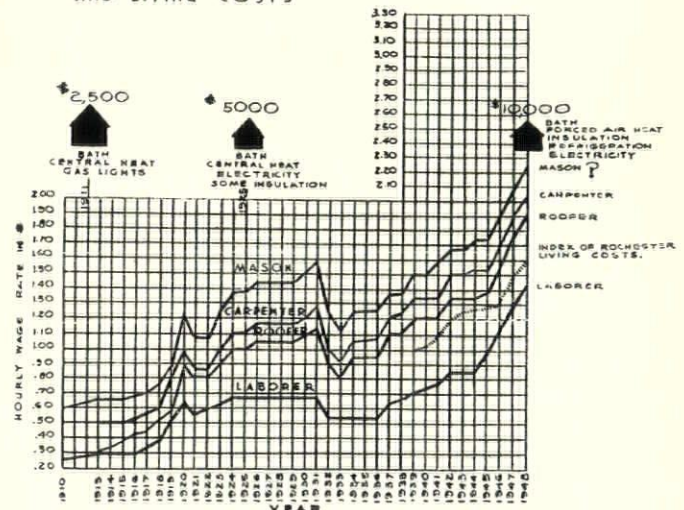
Labor is reported to have slowed down, placed limits on its production, forced feather-bedding into the business, tied up construction by jurisdictional disputes. All these things have been covered in magazines and news articles throughout the country. These impressions on the investor coupled with recent wage increases have and will have marked effects in the building business. At present we have a great deal of commercial and industrial construction that is going ahead, but if we look for continued business, public relations is something the industry cannot afford to overlook. We need a program for each group to establish better relations and a better understanding. If we neglect action, the industry will suffer.

The architects, in the selection of materials and in their ingenuity to cut down on specific types of labor or materials, can to some extent control building costs. With present prices, radical changes are bound to develop that will affect the whole industry. These changes and their proper application take time. New materials are coming into the market, new mechanical devices, new combinations or assemblies of materials that cut down on job labor. These,

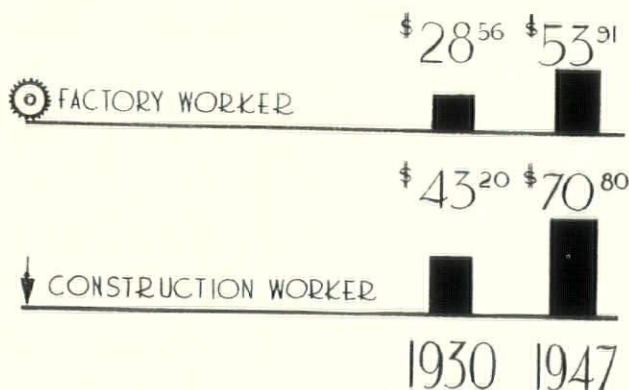
together with the fact that contractors are using equipment that reduces the man hours and speeds up production, will reduce construction costs.

Labor, with its skilled mechanics, should sell to the public the fact that production is not down, that they are giving dollar value and also show what they are doing through their apprentice training program by supplying their ranks with skilled young men. In our system the dollar is a medium of exchange for services or work rendered.

INDEX OF CONSTRUCTION WAGES AND LIVING COSTS



AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE IN FACTORY AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES



ered. If one worker gets a great deal more per hour than a fellow worker, he prices his services out of reach of the other fellow. In our complex life the result of raising the wages of one group is difficult to measure. We can look at a two thousand dollar car and like to own it or we can look at a ten thousand dollar house and also like to own it, but we cannot do any more than look. It is priced out of our purchasing ability.

Our system of free enterprise is under attack from within and without. We will only maintain our freedom and system through a willingness to work and give value received. We can be a builder or a destroyer of our country. Today we need builders and we need to demonstrate that fact through a definite program of public relations. Not only the architects, but each group in this great building industry should undertake such a program which is so large that its success or failure affects the whole economic structure of our country. The petty, selfish program of individual groups should give way to one of selling the public the fact that the building industry is doing a good job at fair prices. If this is not a fact, we had better get busy and make it a fact.

CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER

The annual meeting of the Chapter was held Saturday, January 24th, at the Hotel Syracuse. Most business was dispensed with to hear a talk from Mr. Douglas Orr, President of the Institute. A representative of Ter Bush & Powell explained the salient points of the group insurance plan, and stated that Queens, Albany and Syracuse had gone over their 50% and were in the plan already. The following officers were elected to head the Chapter for the coming year:

President	Wallace Beardsley
Vice-President	C. Storrs Barrows
Secretary	Kenneth Sargent
Treasurer	John Leonard
Member Exec. Comm.	Fred O'Connor

The secretary reported that the Chapter now has 122 members and introduced the following new members:

Mr. Gordon Schoepfer, Geneva, N. Y.
 Mr. James Curtin, Syracuse, N. Y.
 Mr. Charles Northrup, Rochester, N. Y.
 Mr. Williard H. Barrows, Rochester N. Y.,

and the transfer to the Chapter of Mr. E. L. Whittaker from Pennsylvania.

BUFFALO-WESTERN N. Y. CHAPTER

The Atelier Rectagon Progresses. Fourteen solutions for the first problem "A Men's Apparel Shop" were submitted and judged by a group of local architects, Joan De Forest, Rosalind Madison and Bill Brynolfson were awarded 1st mentions, and Roger Patterson a mention plus.

The second session is now underway with part of the group taking the elementary problem "A Bus Shelter" written by C. Donath and the other group taking the advanced problem "A Ski Club" written by M. Morris. The critics for these problems are J. Sloan, A. McTaggart, R. Meadows and S. Podd.

The March Chapter meeting had as its speaker James B. Wilson, prominent local attorney and regional manager of the American Arbitration Society, who spoke on "Invisible Clauses in Contracts."

ALBANY CHAPTER

At the meeting on January 19th, held at the University Club, the Albany Chapter elected a new slate of officers for the coming year. They are as follows:

President	Ralph H. Parks
Vice President	Giles Y. van der Bogert
Secretary-Treasurer	Harry E. Rodman

They have our best wishes for a successful year, and it will be because Albany is going to be host to the 1948 Convention of the Association. It was decided that the Colonie Country Club will be used for the Convention. Busses and cars will be used to take the members from the City to the Club.

At the same meeting Mr. Abbott of Ter Bush and Powell outlined the proposed group insurance plan, and a committee was appointed to meet with the City Club of Albany to discuss the proposed location of the Albany Bus Terminal.

The meeting of February 23rd was mostly taken up with a discussion of legislative matters, announcements of the approaching seminars on schools and hospitals at Syracuse University, discussions by Mr. Winslow, and a talk by Mr. Joseph Dodge, artist and curator of the Hyde Collection in Glens Falls, on his recent trip through Europe. His talk was illustrated by excellent color slides.

AMONG THE

By CYRIL T. TUCKER A

NOTE: Constituent Editors, please send all material

WESTCHESTER CHAPTER

At its regular meeting Tuesday, February 17th, the Westchester Chapter elected the following officers for the coming year:

President	Oscar A. DeBogdan
Vice-President	Frederick H. Voss
Secretary	Lusby Simpson
Treasurer	Robert A. Green

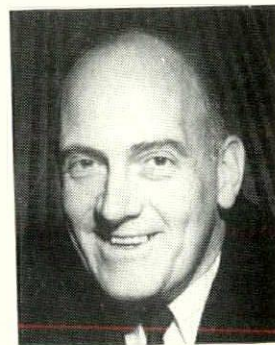
Directors—Class of 1949—Frederick H. Voss, Frederick L. Porter, John Weber, Theodore Richards.

Class of 1950—Russel S. Johnston, Wm. C. Stohldreier, J. Bart Walther.

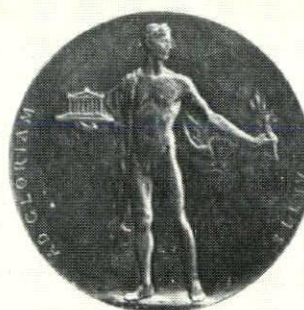
Class of 1951—Edward Fleagle, R. E. Paufve, Ted A. Homa.

NEW YORK CHAPTER

New York, Feb. 25—Wallace K. Harrison, Director of Planning for the United Nations Headquarters Commission, was awarded the Medal of Honor for distinguished architectural work and the highest professional standing, by the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects at the Institute's 79th Anniversary dinner tonight. The medal is one of the architectural field's highest awards and is presented annually.



The famed New York architect is known internationally as co-designer of New York's Rockefeller Center and the Trylon and Perisphere Theme of the New York World's Fair of 1939.



THE MEDAL OF HONOR

In still another presentation, Mr. William Potter, Chairman of the Chapter's Paraplegic Committee, accepted a "Certificate of Merit" on behalf of the Chapter from Mr. E. James Gambaro of the New York State Association of Architects. The award was given for the work done by the Chapter's Paraplegic Committee. The Committee designed standard details for houses for the paraplegic veteran and incorporated these details in specially designed houses. The designs are to be distributed throughout the world by the Red Cross.

An architectural "take-off" on the "Information Please" program, presided over by prominent New York architects, furnished the after dinner entertainment.

CONSTITUENTS

ED BY LESTER ERNST

IL T. TUCKER, 161 Avalon Drive, Rochester 7, N. Y.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF TEAMWORK

On the evening of January 28, 1948, a testimonial dinner was tendered to the newly appointed Commissioner of Housing and Buildings of the City of New York, Bernard J. Gillroy, at the St. George Hotel in Brooklyn.

So much for the facts. But behind the factual report just made, there lies a wealth of significance that makes your scrivener enjoy, for a change, the task of reporting.

Firstly—and these are not necessarily in order of importance—the dinner was given to a man who had worked his way up from the ranks. He had been a plan examiner, so he knew the Department from the employee's point of view; then had been a practising engineer, so he knew the Department's tortuous-and torturous-ramifications, from outside looking in; then had played a major role in the preparation of the new Building Code, so he knew the code he was to administer (and Brother, dat's somethin'); then had progressively worked his way up within the Department to its very top.

"Great," you'll say, "the guy was deserving of the testimonial."

But wait, we're not through. Someone or some group thought up the idea of giving "Barney" the dinner—me thinks it was the Queens Chapter, A.I.A.—and before one could say "Swell, it's a good idea," there were twelve professional organizations that wanted "in" on it.

Even the blizzard of '47 didn't prevent the Committee from meeting and planning. It met often, worked hard, and planned well. Over 1300 persons turned out to do honor to Comm. "Barney" Gillroy.

But the full significance of the affair didn't leave its impress upon even the Committee until "Si" Heller, who was chairman, made his introductory address. (He confessed later that up to the point of his making it he didn't know what he was going to say.)

"Gentlemen," he said, "for the first time in the history of their respective professions, the architects and engineers have gotten together, and worked together—harmoniously—to put over a great event."

"Ye gads," we overheard one well known architect exclaim, "I never thought of that. He's right!"

Yes, twelve organizations got together and sponsored a dinner:

- New York Chapter, A.I.A.
- Bronx Chapter, A.I.A.
- Brooklyn Chapter, A.I.A.
- Queens Chapter, A.I.A.
- Staten Island Society Chapter, A.I.A.
- New York Society of Architects
- Brooklyn Society of Architects
- New York County Chapter, N.Y.S.S.P.E.
- Bronx County Chapter, N.Y.S.S.P.E.
- Kings County Chapter, N.Y.S.S.P.E.
- Queens County Chapter, N.Y.S.S.P.E.
- Richmond County Chapter, N.Y.S.S.P.E.

As one who worked on the Committee, your correspondent can report that he never saw such harmony—In fact, the Alphonse and Gaston acts that went on were damnably embarrassing. The L/r boys left their slide rules home and the Fountainhead gentlemen forgot their clichés.

But what was more marvelous still was not that the architects worked peacefully with the engineers, but that the architects worked peacefully with each other.

An anecdote to point up the story: Sid Kitzler of the Brooklyn Society of Architects who was assigned the task of arranging the tables and seating, showed up at one meeting with a chart and a complaint that the hotel always places the dais on the long axis, and—hang it!—it belongs on the short axis!

Ripley take note: every man architect on the Committee agreed that the hotel had been wrong all these many years. Yes, it did belong on the short axis. So said even Alfred Fellheimer, of Fellheimer and Wagner, who was not on the Committee but in whose Conference Room it was meeting and who had just then wandered in.

As for the dinner proper, all agreed that the puréed soup was better than the vegetable soup and the green garden peas a vast improvement over the hotel's suggested string beans. It was an architect who suggested the substitutions. (Is there no limit to our knowledge?)

Also agreed by all: the talk by the Norwegian Building Commissioner will be long remembered.

MAX M. SIMON, *Publicity Chairman*

ROCHESTER SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

The Society members turned out in goodly numbers as guests of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. to hear Elmer A. Lundberg, A.I.A. on "Store Planning and Store Front Design" at the Rochester Hotel on the evening of January 29, 1948. Refreshments and dinner were served and an enjoyable and informative evening was spent by all who attended.

It has been most encouraging to those of us responsible for the program of the Society to see the attendance at recent affairs. The dinner for Mr. Creighton of *Progressive Architecture* was well attended, the Pittsburgh Plate Glass dinner brought practically the whole Society together, and the attendance of architects and engineers at the Tuesday noon luncheons at the Sheraton was 78, 57, 66 and 59, which set some kind of record.

Mr. Kaelber handled the difficult subject of "Rochester in 1960X" to the avid interest of everyone, Mr. McKaig regaled us with stories of the old Irish foreman of construction and his tricks, Mr. MacDonald convinced us all that his interest in electrical fires was to our interest, and Mr. Ade and Mr. Todd unfolded a major civic project in their explanation of the new airport.

Your Program Committee hopes it can justify your future interest and participation.

Messrs. Frank Quinlan and Ben Ade have been appointed to the Legislation Committee, Ray Scherer, Chairman, to succeed Messrs. Nugent and Eldredge.

The Exhibition Committee put on a very successful exhibition of architectural work at the Rundel Library this month. Mr. Wenrich and his committee is to be congratulated.

BROOKLYN CHAPTER

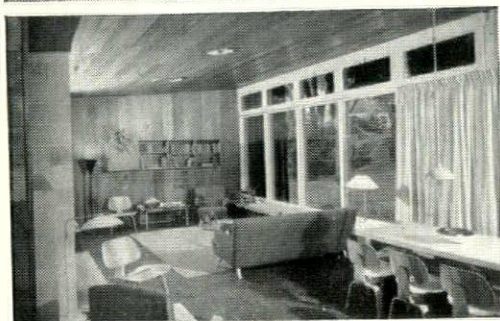
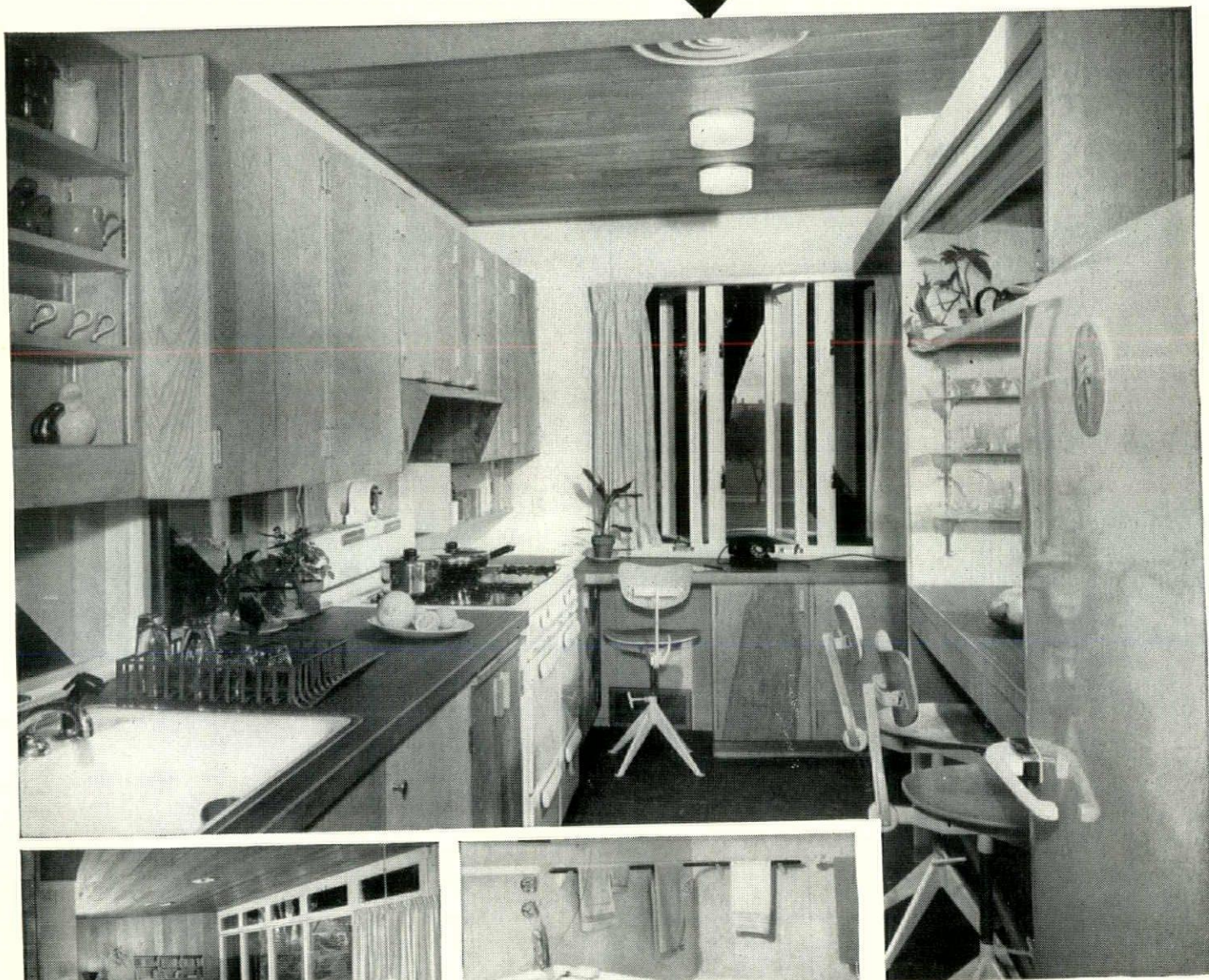
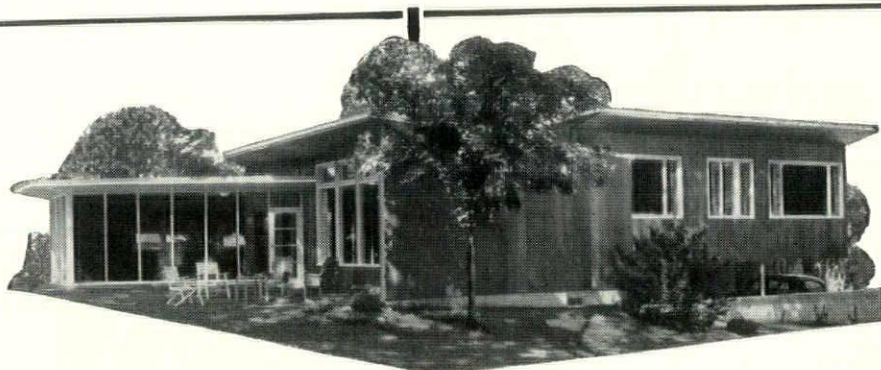
The Brooklyn Chapter under the leadership of President E. James Gambaro has embarked on a program to promote a better understanding between its members and the community. The Chapter believes the Architect has it within his means to enlarge his stature and bring credit to the profession by participating in civic development. It believes that the public at all financial levels can benefit from the Architect's services, the same as in the larger projects, in which the Architect's services are the most vital factor.

It believes, that all architects must be awakened to the reality that the profession as a whole is judged by the work of individuals, and that each must devote his talents in the highest tradition of the profession, to the end that the work of each will reflect in credit to himself, his client, the community, and the entire profession.

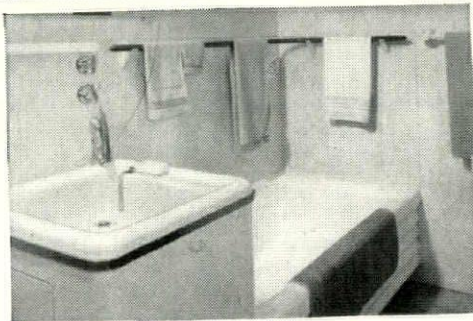
(Continued on Page 23)

Wherever there's news in building

IDEA HOUSE #2, built by the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis to demonstrate the latest advances in home planning and equipment. Featured in the January issue of McCall's Magazine, the house incorporates split-level planning, solar orientation. One of its main attractions is the "New Freedom Gas Kitchen."



4-IN-1 LIVING AREA gives family of 4 plenty of room for work and play. Note built-in storage units, all-purpose table, "conversation" groups. Automatic Gas air conditioner keeps indoor weather perfect 12 months of the year.



"PACKAGED" BATHROOM. Radically new, all-in-one prefabricated bathroom unit has swing-around washbowl, adjustable shower, handy cabinets. Trouble-free hot water service is supplied by an automatic Gas water heater.

"NEW FREEDOM GAS KITCHEN,"* planned as part of the living area, features up-to-the-minute appliances in a casual, charming setting. Automatic Gas range built to "CP" standards makes light work of cooking; roomy Servel Gas refrigerator operates soundlessly, economically; automatic Gas water heater downstairs supplies abundant hot water.

*Cert. Mark, Amer. Gas Assoc., Inc.

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*How you—the architect, the builder—
can use this great new selling tool*

Sweeping national advertising has sold all America on the "New Freedom Gas Kitchen." Buyers know them, want them. All you have to do is give them these kitchens — and you cash in on a tremendous, ready-and-waiting market! It's simple as ABC. For your kitchen qualifies as a "New Freedom Gas Kitchen" if it meets these simple requirements:



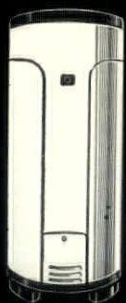
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It must have a Gas range built to "CP" standards (Gas is America's favorite cooking fuel . . . it "feeds" 91,000,000 people daily)



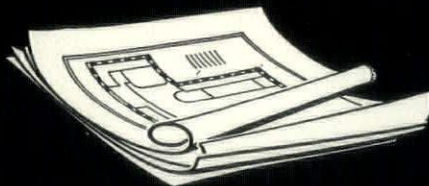
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It must have an automatic Gas refrigerator (Servel refrigerators stand in the tip-top ranks of America's most-wanted makes)



3.

It must have an automatic quick-recovery Gas water heater (an absolute necessity for dishwashers and the new automatic laundries)



4.

It must be well-planned and efficient (and you'll take care of that, anyway — aren't American kitchens the finest in the world?)

Hear what bankers . . . architects . . . builders . . . and buyers have to say about the "New Freedom Gas Kitchen" Program

THE BANKER SAYS: "The house with a completely equipped Gas kitchen is a better financing risk . . . results in fewer delinquencies."

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THE ARCHITECT SAYS: "I like the flexibility of planning with modern Gas appliances; the combination of mass appeal with individuality of design."

. . .

THE BUILDER SAYS: "A kitchen that's ready to live in, one that bears a 'stamp of approval' everybody knows, is a big help in selling a house."

. . .

THE BUYER SAYS: "A completely equipped kitchen saves us the delay and inconvenience of installation. Our kitchen will stay modern, will give our house a higher re-sale value."

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WHAT SHOULD OUR CITIES BE LIKE?

(Continued)

ers of social organization. We in this country are timid and handicapped by our own slogans. Not having suffered, we do not have the imagination and vigor the British and Poles are showing. The plans I would recommend would not be accepted unless we had suffered."

"I was shocked by the report Mr. Norton gave of conditions in Manila, where the taint of our own system of life had left its effect on a capital that needed the same sort of reconstruction policy that Warsaw needed."

"I hope and am confident, concluded Mr. Mumford, that the younger generation, that changed overnight from appeasers and pacifists will demonstrate that there is no worthy human purpose that cannot be fulfilled if we get behind it."

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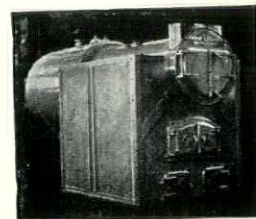
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THAT NECESSARY EVIL, THE ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEER

By THOMAS H. McKAIG

Hardly a week passes but what we read an article in a newspaper or magazine about the need for building code revision. This is quoted from a recent issue of Engineering News-Record — "The Building Officials Foundation has announced completion of the industry review edition of a basic building code, prepared by the Building Officials Conference of America, Inc. Distribution of the code to organizations concerned with building standards has started. The current edition of the code is not intended for immediate adoption by communities.

"The arrangement of the basic code follows recommendations of the American Standards Association with the addition of articles covering refrigeration and prefabrication. It incorporates functional performance requirements.

"Industry groups will be asked to review the code by April 15, after which the code will be issued in such form as it might be adopted by communities and detailed specifications prepared so that manufacturers, architects, builders and others can interpret its provisions readily."

If you have occasion to work under a number of building codes as I do, you will appreciate the fact that building codes are sadly local. Many of our cities are working under wasteful building codes — some absolutely obsolete. For instance, I recently did a job under a code requiring 40 pound roof load, with steel at 18,000 pound fibre stress. The difference between this and a 30 pound roof load at 20,000 pound stress amounts to over seven cents a square foot in roof alone. Why can't codes be standardized on a basic code which any of us can use? Some time ago I called a city engineer nearby to ask if his city had a building code. He replied, — "Well, to tell the truth, Tom, we have one, but nobody knows just where it is."

Then again, why should building codes thruout any section of the country vary from city to city. Why should steel be worth 18,000 pounds per square inch in one city and 20,000 pounds in another, — to say nothing of being good for 24,000 pounds if designed during war years? There are dozens of standard codes prepared by the various sponsoring organizations, which cover every phase of industry. To be sure, each sponsoring group is anxious to place its own material in the best possible light, even to the disadvantage of competing materials. But over and above these, we have our various technical associations and the American Standards Association who are capable of weighing and evaluating the various claims.

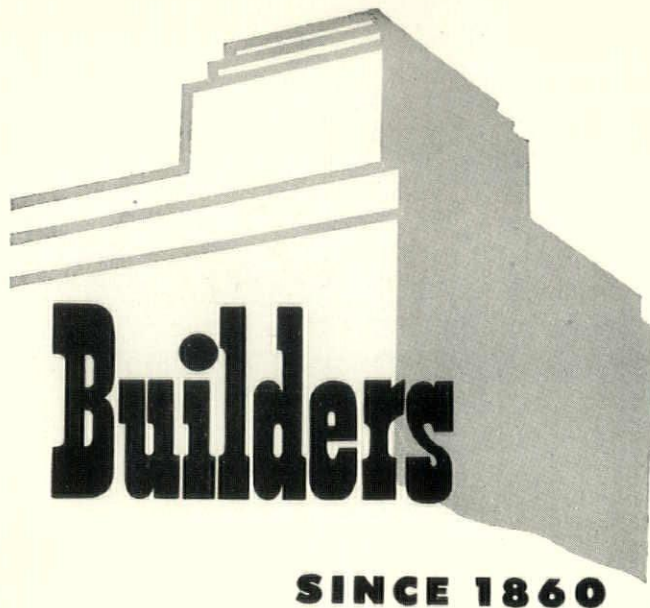
It seems to me that properly followed thru, the above quotation contains the means of obtaining the answer to our perennial problem, — modern and uniform building codes.

Then, having obtained a modern, workable code, perhaps we can find some way of automatically keeping it up to date without being "unconstitutional," and some other way of keeping politics out of the technical matters of the code.

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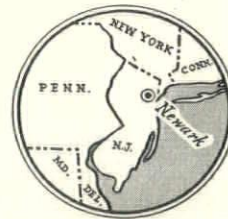
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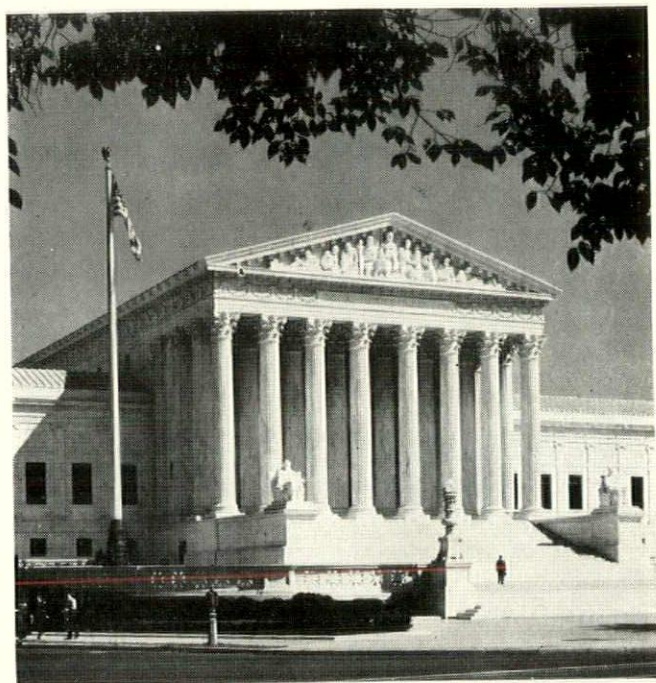
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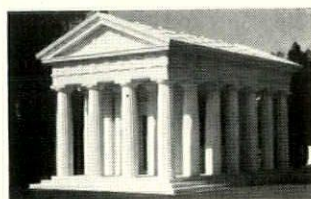
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WHAT YOUR STATE ASSOCIATION HAS DONE

(Continued)

to the avalanche of letters and telegrams he received voicing the objections of the architectural profession. The active co-operation of the affiliate organizations achieved the desired result.

M. A. CANTOR, Chairman
Legislative Committee

EDITOR'S NOTE:

A similar bill was twice introduced at this session of the legislature and thru concerted action of your association was defeated.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FEES

This committee was given the task of investigating fees for State postwar contracts and were to attempt to have same increased.

The committee discussed the subject with Mr. Cornelius J. White, State Architect, who advised that the State realized that, in some instances, fees had been inequitable. He stated that adjustments had been made in the letting of more recent Post War contracts, fees being based upon current building costs rather than upon the previous computation of fees based upon costs of 1939.

The Committee so reported to the Board of Directors for further action. This, the committee feels, met the intent of the Resolution.

However, this Committee recommends that the new Administration appoint a special committee to study the inequitable fees paid by the State of New York for housing work.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED re LABOR LAWS

WHEREAS the State Labor Laws are being recoded and WHEREAS this recoding is being done without representation of the Architectural profession,

NOW, be it resolved that the Board of Directors appoint a special committee of the New York State Association of Architects for the purpose of studying the matter further, and of gaining representation of the Architectural profession in the recoding of the State Labor Laws.

RESOLUTION re. SEMINARS

WHEREAS members of the AIA have shown a strong interest in and have profited from seminary discussions on planning, design and use of materials, as evidenced by the successful seminars at the 1947 AIA National Convention, the establishment of a Research and Education Department in the new Institute structure, the number of successful local seminars held during the last year and those planned for next year,

RESOLVED that the plan for a New York State traveling seminar on subjects currently important to the profession, to be conducted successively in cities of the State of New York, be referred to the Board of Directors for their consideration.

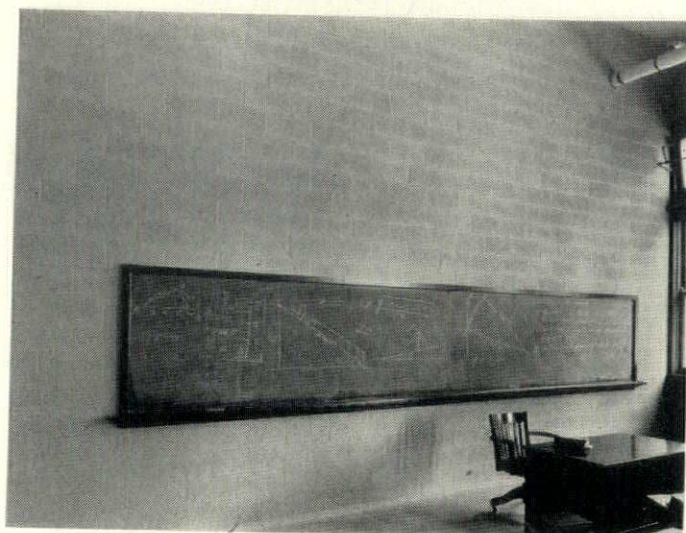
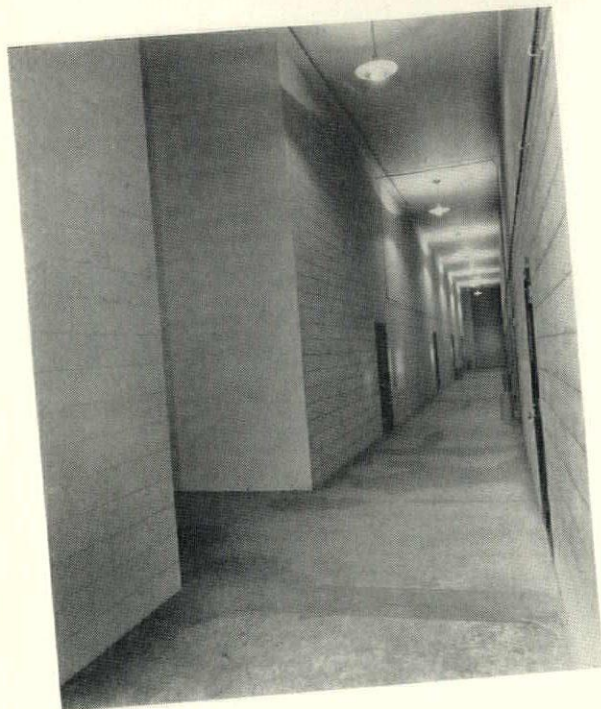
GILES Y. VAN DER BOGERT, Chairman
Special Committee on Fees

EDITOR'S NOTE:

By the time you receive this issue the 1st of the series of seminars will be past. James W. Kideney was chairman—the subject was "Present Day School Costs and How to Reduce Them." It was held at Syracuse University on March 26 and 27, a complete report will be made in a future issue of the E.S.A. Transcripts will be available.

The next Seminar will be held on June 18th and 19th, also at Syracuse University. The subject will be hospitals, and you will be notified by separate mailing of the program.

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Features of this job were speed of construction, economy, attractive appearance, fire safety, excellent acoustics and sound absorption. All of these features were highly desirable in connection with this remodeling job.

Why not discuss your alteration problems with any member of the National Concrete Masonry Association, listed below. They will be glad to furnish you with detailed information about all the advantages of lightweight concrete masonry units for alteration or new construction jobs. You will be under no obligation.

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THE BUILDING INDUSTRY LOOKS AHEAD (Continued)

And that is the picture our industry must start telling the public. Instead of squabbling with critics, let's tell the story of our rapid recovery. Let's tell the public how we have overcome our handicaps and made a fine start on solving our problems. The American people admire accomplishment and we have real accomplishment to hold up before them.

The Council is going to tell this story and we hope that other industry branches will do likewise. By relating our success story in a plausible and convincing way we can do much to counteract the charge that we can't and don't want to meet the country's building requirements. We have made a record to be proud of. It will pay us to voice our pride.

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CENTENNARY of a STRUCTURAL REVOLUTION (Continued)

How fast building progress? It took 5,000 years, up to 1848, before we created wall bearing buildings up to four stories, with the possible exception of such monumental enterprises as the Pyramids which were practically solid masses of masonry.

But in the 100 years since Bogardus experimented, we have grown from four stories to the 103-story Empire State Building.

Here again, we can learn something from history. Not long before the cast iron building was born and probably at about the time Bogardus was first tinkering with the idea, another man was launched upon what he thought an altogether unrelated enterprise. In Western Pennsylvania, John A. Roebling, the bridge pioneer, was searching for a way to make a rope stronger than the hemp hausers, three inches thick, then in use, to haul canal boats. His idea was to use a number of flexible iron wires. He called in his neighbors to his farm and they made the first wire rope by hand. He patented the process in 1842. It was his answer to the problem of producing strong ropes to haul boats.

But the wire rope proved also to be the answer to the problem of lifting elevators. Once elevators were assured as a practical device, the chief obstacle to tall buildings was removed.

When we think of the unrelated accidents of discovery that brought us progress in the past, it is encouraging to realize that we have learned the need for planning, for coordination. For proof of that we need look no further than such projects as the Producers Council and its efforts to stimulate materials production on a score of fronts in the hope of gaining greater building efficiency with lower costs.

It remained for a hardy Englishman, in 1848, to develop Portland cement. It is not merely a figure of speech to say that this invention thrust a new foundation under building concepts. It seeped into every aspect of planning and design. It was the perfection of a material that had been sought for many years. As long ago as 1756, another Englishman had discovered hydraulic cement. But the search for a cement that would set hard under water was continuously under way. Most of the experimenting seems to have been done in England. In 1824, Joseph Aspidin, also English, discovered a hydraulic lime mixture, calcined but not clinkered. It remained for I. C. Johnson, in 1848, to perfect the Portland cement that we take for granted today.

Johnson and Bogardus are two names we might profitably keep before us this year. Yes, they gave us two great inventions that affect our daily thinking. They did even more than that. They wrote large the letters of the word "initiative." They had it.

Would they despair if they were confronted with our problems? Would they think that nothing can be done about them.

Up to the time Bogardus used cast iron, everyone accepted masonry walls as a necessity. The floors rested on the walls below. Very thick walls held up the structure in the lower stories. Simple, wasn't it? Most building people were probably satisfied. There may even have been architects who were satisfied. No doubt there were those who said, "What is there to invent? We have everything. We have good, solid buildings that will last as long as anyone would want them." Can't you hear that kind of thinking today? There is much of it, but, fortunately we have our Johnsons and our Bogarduses, too.

That's why 1948 may be the turn up a new road.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

(Continued)

5—Rôle of the individual architect or chapter in formulation and securing enactment of codes locally.

b. To study and pass judgment on:

1—Several basic or ideal codes now in existence.

2—Numerous standards now available as elements of codes. (197-E-7-47).

The following were appointed members of the Building Codes Committee by President Douglas William Orr:

Professor Walter C. Voss, A.I.A., Chairman
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Mr. Francis R. Scherer, A.I.A.

13 Fitzhugh Street, South

Rochester 4, New York

Mr. John O. Merrill, A.I.A.

Chicago 3, Illinois

Scope of Committee:

The Committee proposes, for the present, to plan and recommend activity in this field focused at the State level, with the objective of promoting some degree of uniformity within each state. This core Committee has requested the appointment of an advisory member in each state and territory.

AMONG THE CONSTITUENTS

(Continued)

As a step in this direction for better public relations the Brooklyn Chapter, devoted its February meeting to an address by Mr. Howard A. Swain, managing editor of the *Brooklyn Eagle*. Present as guests of the Chapter were Mr. Harold R. Sleeper, President, and his brother officers of the New York Chapter. Mr. Swain's subject was "The Architect and His Relation to the Public in the Modern Urban Community."

EDITOR NOTE:

This talk was so interesting and well written that we are printing it completely in the May-June issue—watch for it.

The Brooklyn Chapter announces its annual competition, open to architectural students and draftsmen in the territorial area of the chapter. Included are day and evening students in Pratt Institute, and architectural draftsmen and students of other schools who reside, or are employed in Brooklyn and Queens, and in the counties of Nassau and Suffolk. Pratt Institute is a member of the National Accrediting Board, and its course leads to the degree of B.A.

The purpose of the annual competition follows the objectives of the Student Associate Branch of the Brooklyn Chapter. To promote cooperation and a spirit of unity between students and draftsmen, and the Brooklyn Chapter and its members. To impart to them an appreciation and understanding of the ideals and objects of the American Institute of Architects, and the architectural profession.

The subject is "A High School for Specialty Trades," on the site so designated in the Master plan for the Brooklyn Civic Center. Contestants are requested to adhere to the general design theme for the Civic Center. The latter, in its conception has been widely acclaimed, and is destined to create great prestige for the great Borough of Brooklyn.

Prizes are \$100.00 for first prize; \$50.00 for second prize; \$25.00 for third prize.

Judgment will be made by a distinguished panel of architects and educators, at the March meeting of the Chapter. The meeting will be addressed by Mr. Sherly W.

The policy of the Committee as at present outlined does not contemplate the preparation of standard or ideal codes in the name of the American Institute of Architects.

The burden of the Committee work will be carried by the main Committee with the aid of the Department of Education and Research. The State Advisor would not be expected to attend meetings of the main committee excepting as he might wish to do so.

Chairman Voss suggests that advisory members begin their work by undertaking the following activities as soon as possible in anticipation of a meeting of the core Committee early in March:

1—Review the State Constitution to ascertain whether the legislature is empowered to delegate the power of regulation to an appointed committee.

2—Review the general statute laws of the state dealing with building construction and codes so that we might have a general summary of how far such state regulation has proceeded.

3—Organize a small committee of important representatives from the following industrial units: contractors, realtors, mercantile establishments, trade unions, engineers. This small group should get together to study the proposal made by the A.I.A. Committee and to determine whether these groups will cooperate in the forming of state legislative action.

Morgan, Director, School of Architecture, Princeton University, and members of the panel. The 56 members of the Student Associate Branch of the Chapter, and all contestants, will be the guests of the Chapter for dinner, the meeting, the awards, and the exhibition.

Vito P. Battista is chairman of the Education and Registration Committee.

BROOKLYN SOCIETY

On Thursday, February 26, 1948, at the Hotel Granada, Brooklyn, the Brooklyn Society of Architects held its Twentieth Anniversary Installation Dinner and Dance.

The proceedings were conducted by the prominent and distinguished architect in the community, Henry V. Murphy, well known for his ecclesiastical work.

The officers for the coming year are as follows:

Vito P. Battista, President

Morris B. Adler, 1st Vice-President

Harry A. Yarish, 2nd Vice-President

Harold G. Dangler, Treasurer

Gabriel Nathan, Recording Secretary

Harry Finkelstein, Financial Secretary

Maxwell A. Cantor, Honorary President

The new members of the Board of Directors

Abraham Farber

Irving Marks

Charles Spindler

This dinner also was given in honor of our popular Borough Superintendent of the Department of Housing and Buildings, Benjamin Saltzman.

The yearly affair given by the Brooklyn Society of Architects is looked upon as a social event of the year among architects, engineers and builders, in fact, the entire building industry was present. It has always been the policy of this society to instill a friendly cooperative feeling or relationship between the public officials, allied societies, public and members of our profession. This close relationship between all groups is very essential and is conducive to good fellowship and development of a better understanding.

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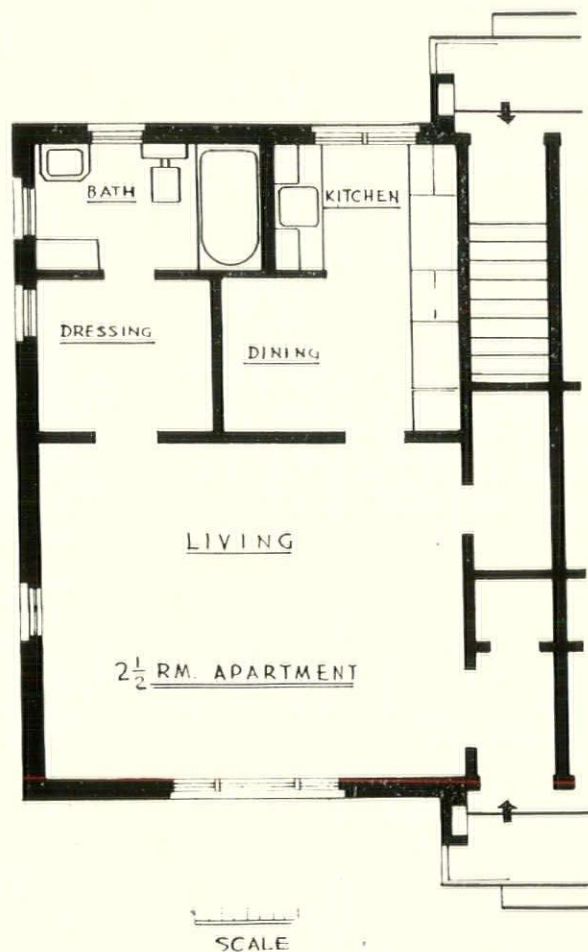
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PLAN OF TYPICAL 2 1/2 ROOM APARTMENT

University Park is one of many housing projects in Rochester where the community has had the cooperation of City, Banks and the Building Industry to meet the housing problem at a local level.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Last month we printed articles on teamwork in design—here is an example of teamwork that extends beyond the design stage. Would that more communities could promote projects like this—congratulations to Carpenter and Barrows—Architects for a good service to the community.



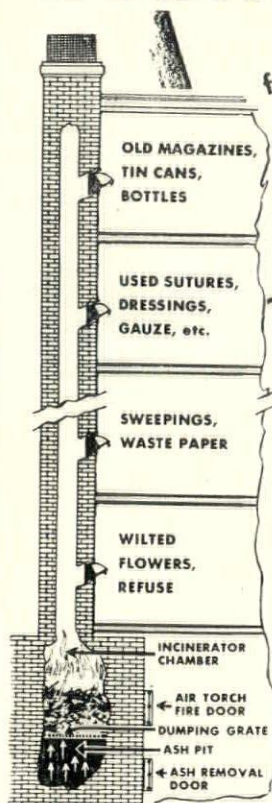
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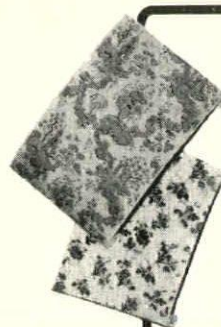
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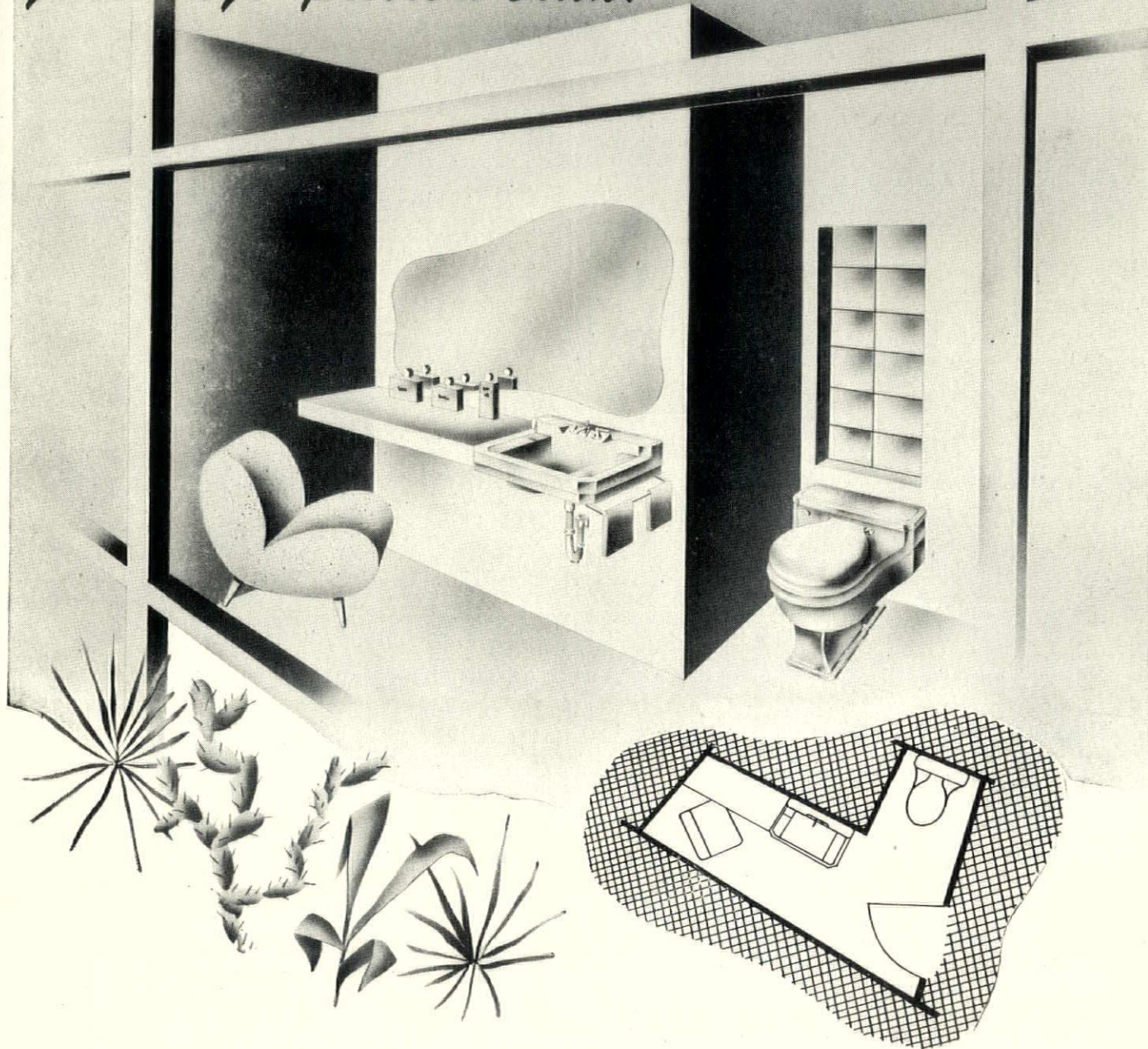
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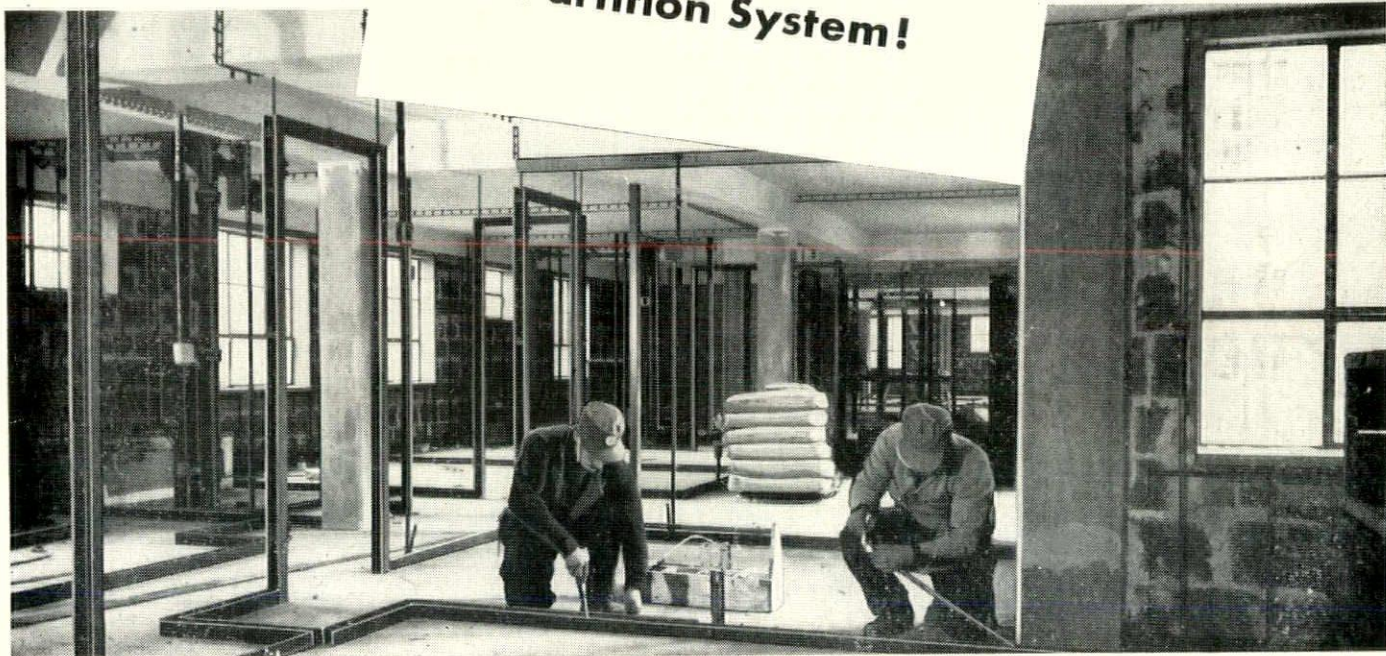




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Partition System!**



Seven percent more living space in this Jacob Riis project was achieved through modern construction methods. This huge group of apartments now under way in lower Manhattan is one more major project using Gold Bond solid partitions of fireproof gypsum plaster and metal lath.

Compared with old style walls, these streamlined partitions save approximately 4 inches per wall. Multiply that by the number of walls in each apartment and then multiply that by 1768 apartments and you have a quick appreciation of the overall saving.

The resulting Gold Bond walls are fireproof and effectively subdue noise transmission. As for durability, it

would be hard to name a better combination for super strength than solid plaster and metal lath.

All products needed for this system are Gold Bond — ceiling runners, metal lath, plaster, lime and the famous flush type metal base. With these 100% Gold Bond walls the entire responsibility for the performance of all integral products is centered with one manufacturer—National Gypsum.

You'll find the Gold Bond Solid Partition System fully described in Sweet's. For a 15 minute demonstration by your local Gold Bond representative, just say the word. No obligation, of course.

**You'll build or
remodel better with
Gold Bond**

NATIONAL GYPSUM COMPANY
BUFFALO 2, NEW YORK

Over 150 Gold Bond Products including gypsum lath, plaster, lime, wallboard, gypsum sheathing, rock wool insulation, metal lath products and partition systems, wall paint and acoustical materials.